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REMARKS**Status of Claims**

Claims 1-14 are pending in the instant application. Claims 1-14 stand rejected. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and following remarks.

Claim Objections

The claims stand objected to as not being in accordance with 37 CFR §1.126 which requires the original numbering of the claims to be preserved throughout prosecution. The Examiner states that misnumbered claims 12 (second occurrence) and 13 have been renumbered as 13 and 14, respectively.

Applicants thank the Examiner for renumbering claims 12 as claims 13 and 14. Applicants submit that this error was unintentional.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,453,687 to Sharood et al.

To preclude reliance by the Examiner upon the Sharood et al. patent, Applicants submit herewith a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 of Jocelyn M. Seng, inventor. In accordance with recognized practice, the actual dates shown in the exhibits have been expunged.

The effective U.S. filing date of the Sharood et al. patent is January 7, 2000. Mrs. Seng's Declaration is effective to show completion of the claimed invention before January 7, 2000. Thus, any further use of the Sharood et al. patent in a rejection should be avoided.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. §1.131 overcomes the rejections under 35 USC §102(e). Accordingly,

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Applicants respectfully request that the 35 USC §102(e) rejection of claims 1-14 be withdrawn.

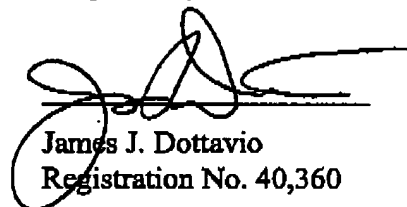
CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that claims 1-14 are allowable. The Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicants' undersigned agent at (740) 321-7167 if any unresolved matters remain.

If any questions should arise with respect to the above Remarks, or if the Examiner has any comments or suggestions to place the claims in better condition for allowance, it is requested that the Examiner contact Applicants' attorney at the number listed below.

Applicants authorize any fees required pertaining to this response be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0568.

Respectfully submitted,



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